



World Concern Development Organization

VIETNAM:

**THE ADAPTIVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAM FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

QUARTERLY REPORT

1 OCTOBER 2002 THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 2002

for

THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Displaced Children and Orphan's Fund
GRANT NO. 492-G-00-98-00042-00

Submitted by:

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29 January 2003

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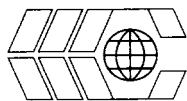


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The Adaptive Vocational Training Program for Adolescents with Disabilities

List of Acronyms

ABE	Alternative Basic Education
AWD	Adolescents with Disabilities
CBR	Community-Based Rehabilitation
CBSW	Community-Based Social Workers
CEDC	Children in Extremely Difficult Circumstances
CSW	Community Support Workers
CWD	Children with Disabilities
DCOF	Displaced Children's and Orphan's Fund
DET	Department of Education and Training
DELISA	Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
DSC	District Steering Committees
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
PMT	Project Management Team
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
PWD	People with Disabilities
SLT	Sign Language Trainers
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
VVAF	Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
WCDO	World Concern Development Organization



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The Adaptive Vocational Training Program for Adolescents with Disabilities

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 October 2002 through 31 December 2002

GENERAL REFERENCE

- A. NAME OF PVO: World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)
- C. AID AGREEMENT NO: 492-G-00-98-00042-00
- B. TITLE OF PROJECT: The Adaptive Vocational Training Program For Adolescents with Disabilities (AVTPAD)
- D. DATE OF THIS REPORT: January 29, 2003

NOTE: In this report, project activities have been divided into geographical categories. The reason for this is that there are two WCDO project implementation and management teams. One is based in Hanoi, the other in the central region of Vietnam in DaNang. The Hanoi office is responsible for the work in Hai Duong Province some 80 kilometers east of Hanoi. The other is based in DaNang and is responsible for two provinces: DaNang and neighboring Quang Nam. Thus the sections are divided into Hai Duong (the north region) and DaNang/Quang Nam (the central region).

SECTION I. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

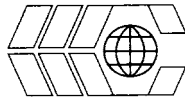
Activity 1: Planning And Coordination

Consisting of the following activities: *Activity 1.1:* Program Management and Coordination, *Activity 1.2:* Strengthen Cooperative Relationships, *Activity 1.3:* Baseline Situational Analysis, and *Activity 1.4:* Training Needs Assessment.

Activity 1.1: Program Management and Coordination

Hai Duong

Improved cooperation between DeLISA and Red Cross through the Provincial Management Team (PMT) and the District Steering Committee (DSC) was highlighted by improved awareness and responsibilities from the PMT to DSCs on activities, monitoring and reports. However, the quality of reports is still poor with lack of detailed information



and analysis. Reporting was not regular in many districts. The reasons for this include the lack of time and effort for reporting, especially in December when the local partners were busy with year-end work.

On December 17th the biannual meeting between the project management partners was conducted. The participants included key PMT and DSC members, WCDO representatives, and several well-regarded business owners who are involved in vocational training and job placements for AWD. The meeting provided a broad review on implemented activities, lessons learned from successes and shortcomings, an activity plan for the next six months, discussion and sharing on issues of concern.

DaNang

The biannual PMT meeting was held on the 19th of December with the main members of the PMT and six DSCs attending. Mr. Phao, Director of the Job Service Center (JSC), also attended. The issues discussed were: the number of AWD in the project is still small; there are no AWD in formal training; Son Tra District requested that formal training be undertaken at the Continuing Education and Training Center and they also submitted the ABE plan; Ngu Hanh Son and Hai Chau asked for guidelines for cooperation among members of the DSCs; the Department of Education and Training (DET) will have a meeting with the DET of six districts to make the list of AWD needing ABE and recommend the type of ABE needed.

During the meeting it was agreed that: formal training will be organized at Son Tra district although the cost may be higher than that of the JSC, the PMT will guide new districts about procedures for DSC cooperation, there should be a workshop funded by WCDO for PMT and DSC members to learn how to more effectively cooperate, and the remaining Goods in Kind (GIK) will be distributed to the AWD, their families, and training places in January 2003.

Quang Nam

The PMT, DSCs of seven districts and WCDO staff met on the 20th of December for the biannual project meeting. All members of the PMT and DSCs including PWDs had the chance to learn more about project activities from different districts in Quang Nam Province and to share ideas and concerns. There didn't seem to be any major issue coming from the meeting and most members regarded the project to be going very smoothly. The meetings continued for much of the day in a sharing and learning experience.

Activity 1.2: *Strengthen Cooperative Relationships***Hai Duong**

During this quarter, three AWD from Hai Duong were given operations for their mobility impairment, at either the international French Hospital or Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi. VVAF gained extra support from the hospitals and provided some necessary devices for AWD during their rehabilitation period. The surgery results were good, and the hospitals will continue with follow up and rehabilitation of the AWD beneficiaries.

The AWD who were provided with hearing aids were monitored on the use of their devices, and were helped in maintaining them.

WCDO continued to participate in the Disability Forum through meetings and exchanging information related to disabilities issues. WCDO had a display booth at the International Disabilities Day on December 4th at Lenin Park. The event was a great success with many organizations and PWD groups enjoying the activities of the afternoon. A national newspaper interviewed WCDO about its activities in Vietnam.

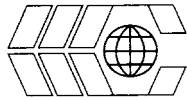
Da Nang

There was a World Vision staff tour to WCDO projects in DaNang on October 3rd, 2002. Thirteen people were involved including nine AWD. They want to do a similar program to help PWD in District Six of Ho Chi Minh City. They were pleased with what they heard and saw and thought there were some good models being practiced especially in informal vocational training.

From October 31st to November 7th a team of dental specialists with Northwest Medical Teams visited the DaNang and Quang Nam projects. The team included one doctor, one nurse, one hygiene technician and two helpers. Twenty-four AWD from the DaNang project received dental care including cleaning, pulling bad teeth and filling cavities. The team also demonstrated improved techniques of dental health both to the beneficiaries and also the community support workers so their capacity on community work could be increased.



The Team also donated equipment to the Hoa Vang Hospital. This helped pull the team together, brush up the partner relationships, and fill cavities in cooperation. This created a good relationship between WCDO and the hospital.



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World Vision funded four DaNang AWD to be operated on at the Rehabilitation Center this quarter. The total cost of the operations came to around \$600 USD. Tram was one of the beneficiaries of the surgeries; she had a frozen knee and extreme difficulty moving, but can now bend her knee after the surgery. Every day she goes to the Rehabilitation Center for physical therapy.

Tram

Quang Nam

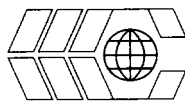
The World Vision staff tour also visited projects in Quang Nam on the 4th of October. They visited the Tam Ky Job Service Center and saw several AWD receiving informal training in Tam Ky and Thang Binh. They appreciated the quality of work they saw in the AWD being assisted in Quang Nam.

The team of dental specialists with Northwest Medical Teams also visited Quang Nam. They were able to help around 30 AWD through cleaning, pulling bad teeth and filling cavities.

One Quang Nam AWD was funded by World Vision to be operated on at the DaNang Rehabilitation Center this quarter. Vo Tan Hoa, a 19-year-old boy from Tien Phuoc has a left foot deformity due to polio. He received an operation and to date the operation seems to have corrected much of the crooked bone. It will be some time after his rehabilitation that WCDO will know the full results of this operation.



A dental team from Northwest Medical Teams treats an AWD from Quang Nam



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Activity 1.3 and Activity 1.4: Baseline Situational Analysis / TNA

Hai Duong

During November and December 2002, all the districts in Hai Duong conducted supplementary surveys on AWD and businesses, totaling 190 AWD forms and 16 business forms. These completed surveys provide more data for better interviews and selection of further AWD beneficiaries. Selection interviews which will be conducted in January 2003.

Da Nang

This quarter eight new AWD were interviewed in DaNang and seven were found suitable for the program.

Quang Nam

During regular work WCDO staff, the Community Based Social Workers and Community Support Workers undertook several interviews and negotiations with businesses and new AWD before they could start training. There was a trial period to make sure the skills taught and businesses selected are suitable for AWD needs and maximizing the opportunities of success.

Activity 2: Direct Interventions

Consisting of the following activities: *Activity 2.1: Raising Disability Awareness*, *Activity 2.2: Community Support Worker Training and Group Formation*, *Activity 2.3: Adapting Vocational Sites*, *Activity 2.4: Adapting Training*, and *Activity 2.5: Employment and Income Generation*.

Activity 2.1: Raising Disability Awareness

Hai Duong

A workshop on Awareness Raising on Disabilities Issues for the provincial level was conducted in Hanoi on October 7-8. The workshop was led by Ms. Nhieu from Action Aid. WCDO Hanoi staff, the Hai Duong PMT members and the directors of the Job Service Centers from all the three program provinces of Quang Nam, DaNang and Hai Duong participated. Though the issues addressed were similar to those in the Awareness Raising workshops in the districts for AWD families and businesses, the approach to these issues was different in that this workshop was geared toward the needs of managers and social workers. The skillful facilitator and enthusiastic participants worked on in-depth

and practical discussions of the potentials and limits of people with disabilities. Issues were looked at such as how can AWD potential be developed, the choosing of appropriate jobs, the barriers they have to cope with in life, and how to overcome these barriers.

Some comments from participants included:

“I have worked with social issues relating to helping PWD for years, but really only until this workshop did I get a systematic knowledge of the needs of the PWD with their specific disabled conditions.” (a delegate from Quang Nam DELISA)

“One thing I felt most inspired about is the emphasis on the potentials of PWD and the important role of the PWD and their families in helping themselves. Raising awareness about how to include the PWD and their families gives good insight into how to help social organizations.” (a Red Cross president from Hai Duong)

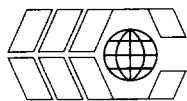
“For two days I was separated from my busy daily routine and work and had time just to sit back, listen and discuss the issues of disabilities. That made me feel my deep responsibilities in motivating cooperative efforts from agencies and community to make more practical and thoughtful support to PWD.” (a PMT leader at the end of the workshop)

The participants also contributed many good ideas on how to make better workshops of this kind, such as more various representatives should be included as participants from agencies such as the Youth and Women Unions. More case-studies on real-life successful PWD would be appreciated and there should be more evening activities and talking/meeting between participants, PWD and their supporters in a relaxed and entertaining setting.



Workshop in Hai Duong

In November another workshop on Awareness Raising on Disabilities Issues was conducted in Hai Duong, but this one was for the District Steering Committee members



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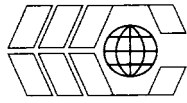
over the 12 districts in the province. The facilitator was Mrs. Tran Thi Anh Tuyet, a Social Work Trainer from the National Pioneers and Youth Institute. The participants included members from the education branch who will help in the Alternative Basic Education program in the future. Participants were active in discussing activities, and found better understanding and new insight on the situation of the PWD in general and the AWD and their needs.



Participants interacting at the November Hai Duong workshop

Also in November the WCDO calendar for 2003 was printed. This was a very attractive and visual calendar designed in picture and word to raise awareness about PWD. The theme was “People with Disabilities can be Successful.” Over 2,000 calendars were printed and they have all been distributed through the Community Support Worker network in each province. Calendars went to all key stakeholders in this program plus the people and businesses involved in vocational training and employment.

On the International Day for People With Disabilities (December 4th), WCDO attended a joint celebration as a member of the Disabilities Forum with various groups of people with disabilities in Lenin Park, Hanoi. All the WCDO staff of the Hanoi office and eight AWD who were in the one-month trial benchworker training program attended. WCDO set up a booth to display information about the organization and its vocational program for AWD. There were also displays of different products made by AWD in the program in Hai Duong. At the booth, many visitors showed interest in talking, sharing ideas about the program activities, exchanging contact addresses and even buying some of the displayed



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items. WCDO gave out a number of its 2003 Awareness Raising Calendars. The celebration was a mutual awareness raising exercise between the disabled and the abled on a variety of disability issues.



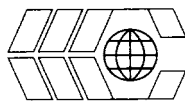
*The WCDO booth at the International
Disability Day in Hanoi*

During the International Day of Disabilities, World Concern Staff were interviewed by a local newspaper “The Humanitarian” for the special Tet issue. An article was published about WCDO work and the issue of vocational training and employment in Vietnam. *(Please see Attachment B for a copy of the newspaper article.)*

DaNang

Five staff members from DaNang attended the workshop on Disability Awareness Raising held in Hanoi on October 7-8. The details of the workshop are outlined above in the Hai Duong report.

Over 200 of the WCDO calendars on the topic “People with Difficulties Can Be Successful” have been distributed for people involved in the project through the Community Support Workers and the District Red Cross.



Quang Nam

Project staff from Quang Nam also attended the workshop on Disability Awareness Raising in Hanoi on October 7-8. The details of the workshop are outlined above in the Hai Duong report.

Activity 2.2: Community Support Worker Training and Group Formation

There were no training workshops for Community Based Social Workers (CBSW) or Community Support Workers (CSW) during this quarter for any province. However, training still continues through the on-the-job process. The CBSWs worked well supervising CSWs and through reporting. The CBSWs are supported well by the WCDO staff during site trips and the CBSWs' monthly meeting at the WCDO office.

Hai Duong

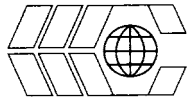
Peer Group Meetings

The first step of empowering the CSWs and the AWD to run group meetings by themselves has been taken. The CSWs were encouraged to co-facilitate meetings, or facilitate by themselves with the support from CBSWs and WCDO Social Workers. Each group of AWD has voted in a leader to be trained to become active in leading group activities. The next step will involve the CSW doing more than just conducting the meeting. They intend to plan and prepare for the meeting's content and to train and hand over to group leaders the facilitation role. Further on it is intended that a pilot stage of a self-help group will be developed based on the experience of VVAF's Self-Help Group project and cooperation with some experienced consultants.

For the current period the AWD are getting used to group activities, have made friends and have become more involved and enthusiastic about meeting. AWD from the old phase and new phase each helped at the group meetings. Families and businesses showed more thoughtful care for the AWDs' social needs.

A business owner remarked at a meeting: *"Group meetings like this are truly useful for these kids. Before, no one taught them the necessary things as they were used to having no chance in joining in community activities."*

On November 1-2, a training course on Life Skills took place at the Hai Duong Trade Union Job Service Center. The main trainer was Mrs. Anh Tuyet. Trainees were the AWD who are learning and working at the center. The course provided the general knowledge and skills necessary for the AWD to live a healthy life, be aware of the potential risks in the community, and know how to cope with such risks. Trainees were



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encouraged to practice the skills in specific role-plays, discussions, and question and answer sessions.



Life Skills Training Workshop

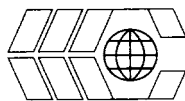
Sign Language and ABE training for the hearing impaired AWD



Sign Language Training

The Sign Language and Alternative Basic Education conducted by Ms. Cuc, the WCDO Sign Language Coordinator, continued at two training centers: the Trade Union's Job Service Center in Hai Duong City and Mr. Tuyen's electronic business in Gia Loc District. Over the past three months about one third of the students made good progress. For the rest, difficulties in learning/teaching are mostly because of the older AWDs' lack of interest and concentration in learning to read and write. The teacher

has created teaching games, which has improved the students' enjoyment and there seems to be better results in learning.



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Ms. Cuc also worked on interviews and selection of two AWD to attend a two-month training course on Sign Language in Dong Nai, near Saigon from November 18th to January 3rd. After the course these two AWD will work as mobile Sign Language trainers at vocational centers throughout Hai Duong where hearing impaired AWD are training and working.

DaNang

Peer group meetings in the six districts are going well, especially in Lien Chieu and Hai Chau. Two new districts have also begun to organize meetings for AWD. The self-help groups of the graduates of Hai Chau, Thanh Khe and Lien Chieu are still meeting regularly.



Peer Group Meeting

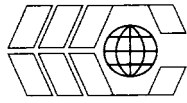
Quang Nam

The CBSWs and CSWs in Quang Nam contribute well to the success of the project activities in all districts, especially the three districts of the new grant. Their work quality improves every day, giving the AWD beneficiaries better chances of success in life and work. Peer group activities are carried out monthly. In these the AWD make friends, sing, play games and share experiences with one another and with the CSWs. Sometimes when the AWDs have problems they talk to the CSWs and ask for help and counseling.

Activity 2.3: Adapting Vocational Training Sites

Hai Duong

During December the provincial Blind Association made a detailed proposal on site improvement and supplies for the city's Blind Association. The improvement aims to



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create a safer environment for vocational training and better job placement for blind adolescents. WCDO has agreed to fund part of a site improvement to a massage training and work place by the blind so that the environment is safer and that changes are appropriate for the blind. Special attention will be given to renovation, bathroom facilities and appropriate workbenches and spaces.



*The Blind Association building
that will be renovated*



*Workbench for Blind Masseur will be
upgraded along with other facilities*



*State of the existing ceiling
that will be replaced*

DaNang

There were no site improvement activities during this quarter.

Quang Nam

There were no site improvement activities during this quarter.

Activity 2.4: Adapting Training - Formal, Informal, and Alternative Basic Education (ABE)

Formal Training

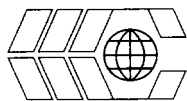
Hai Duong

The formal training course for the first intake will finish at the end of next quarter. In anticipation of this, the director of the center began the initial introduction for the AWD to the enterprise opportunities within the community. Some AWD have already undertaken a job test at a nearby sewing factory. At the Women Union's center, the embroidery class continued smoothly.

(Formal training numbers are the same as Q3 of 2002)

District	Female	Male	Total
Binh Giang	3	2	5
Cam Giang		1	1
Chi Linh		3	3
Hai Duong City	7		7
Kim Thanh	1		1
Kim Mon	5	7	12
Than Mon	3	1	4
Ninh Giang	2	1	3
TOTAL	21	15	36

In the joint venture with VVAF on Benchworker training, eight AWD were selected from Hai Duong to attend a trial training at the Orthotic Center in Bach Mai hospital from November 18th to December 25th. At the end of this trial period, four excellent AWD were selected to participate in the two-year training course starting on December 23rd 2002.



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DaNang

There are no AWD in formal training in DaNang at the present time. Following is a story of one of the formal students of the past phase of the project.

Case study:



Tran Thi Bick Huyen

Tran Thi Bich Huyen: Huyen is 18 years old and has difficulty speaking, as she has no upper gum and no front teeth. She studied sewing at the Job Service Center for nine months. After graduation she obtained work from tailoring shops for one year with an income that averaged around \$20 - \$30 USD/month. After that year she worked for a bag making company with an income of around \$15 USD/month. However, this has now increased to around \$25 USD/month as she works at the Delisa Sewing Workshop in Hoa Minh. WCDO arranged to have her teeth and gum operated on and she has now become much more confident and happy than before.

Quang Nam

The training quality for formal students this year is better than that of the previous phase thanks to better preparation and better selection of AWD for training, especially those who are learning sewing.



Formal Training Sewing Students



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(Formal training numbers are the same as Q3 of 2002)

District	Female	Male	Total
Thang Binh	3	3	6
Dien Ban	0	2	2
Nui Thanh	1	0	1
Tien Phuoc	1	1	2
Que Son	1	1	2
Dai Loc	0	2	2
Tam Ky	1	2	3
TOTAL	7	11	18

Informal Training

Hai Duong

The courses continued well toward the middle period of training in the districts. In general, businesses were enthusiastic and caring in teaching the AWD. The AWD worked hard in their training.

“I feel very happy being able to help these kids. It’s a good deed I haven’t thought of doing before,” said a business owner in Tu Ky.

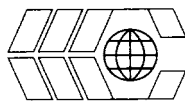
Businesses, the CSW and especially the families feel very encouraged by the progress of the AWD in their learning and behavior changes.

“Sometimes I am just surprised with their abilities, for example a kid in the course has created an adaptive tool to do the job more efficiently. Such an intelligent idea that I couldn’t think of myself,” said Mr. Tuyen from an electric business in Gia Loc district.

Case story

Thiep is a boy in Cam Giang with a lame left foot, uncontrolled hands, and poor memory. He has been supported in animal husbandry training since August 2002. The teacher is his uncle who is an experienced farmer. After three months, the ducks he raised have brought him \$15 USD/month profit. He is very happy and now continues to learn about chicken raising (since winter is not favorable for feeding ducks in the field).

Perhaps his mother is even happier. *“Before, he just played around, since we just let him think that he couldn’t do anything. But now he cares so much for his job. I felt moved*



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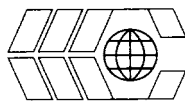
when I saw how proud he was about the ducks. The neighbors kept admiring how beautiful and healthy the ducks were. I felt very proud also.”

District	Female	Male	Total
Binh Giang	1	6	7
Cam Giang	2	5	7
Chi Linh	7	7	14
Gia Loc	7	7	14
Hai Duong	0	3	3
Kim Thanh	8	3	11
Kinh Mon	4	3	7
Nam Sach	5	7	12
Ninh Giang	4	1	5
Thanh Ha	6	10	16
Thanh Mien	5	4	9
Tu Ky	8	9	17
TOTAL	57	65	122

DaNang

Revolving equipment with a value of around \$650 USD was supplied to six businesses and three AWD this quarter.

District	Female	Male	Total
Thanh Khe	2	3	5
Lien Chieu	2	4	6
Hai Chau	5	2	7
Hoa Vang	3	2	5
Son Tra		2	2
Ngu Hanh Son	1	4	5
TOTAL	13	17	30



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Case Study:

Tran Thi Hoa Mang:



Mang is 19 years old and is studying drawing on stone products such as teapots, cups, vases and signs. Before entering the project she never went out of the house. Her legs are withered. She can walk only with difficulty and she often falls down. She is practicing using a wheelchair. She has never been to school, therefore at the beginning of the training she learned very slowly. The trainer taught her to read and write and draw. She tries very hard and has learned a lot.

Tran Thi Hoa Mang

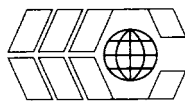
Quang Nam

The CSWs have more experience in placing AWD in informal training and job placement, therefore the quality of informal training has been improved, especially in the new districts.

For example, Nguyen Thi Bich Thao is the owner of a sewing shop in Dien Ban district. She trains two girls: Le Thi Bich Thao age 18, who has difficulty moving her leg, started training in May 2002; and Huynh Thi Hong Quyen, age 15, who is deaf and dumb, started training in June 2002. Thao is the most advanced. She wants to return to her home village to start her own business next month.



Thao (second from left) and Quyen (second from right) from Dien Ban



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Nguyen Ngoc Duc is a deaf and dumb boy aged 18. He started to be trained in carpentry in May 2002 by Mr. Nguyen Van Luc. They enjoy working together and Duc has improved a lot both in his carpentry skills and social life.

District	Female	Male	Total
Thang Binh	9	11	20
Dien Ban	8	9	17
Nui Thanh	8	5	13
Tien Phuoc	5	7	12
Que Son	7	10	17
Dai Loc	14	8	22
Tam Ky	5	6	11
Total	56	56	112

Alternative Basic Education

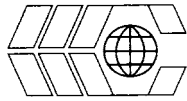
Hai Duong

There is no ABE being undertaken this quarter.

DaNang

The Department of Education and Training has asked the districts to make a list of the AWD needing ABE and send a plan to WCDO. There is only one plan from Son Tra district DET so far.

One girl and one boy from DaNang went to Bien Hoa on November 15th for sign language training.



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Quang Nam

In Thang Binh district 15 AWDs studied math, literacy and Vietnamese two days a week with two young teachers. The AWD enjoy the classes and have improved a lot. The two teachers also have made their own curriculum.

In Tien Phuoc district four AWDs studied math, literacy, and Vietnamese three evenings a week with Mrs. Luu. They are doing well in their studies.

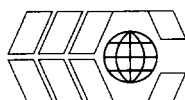


Alternative Basic Education class in Thang Binh

Activity 2.5: Employment and Income Generation

Hai Duong

There were more AWD getting job placement, thanks to their own efforts and sometimes districts' support in contacts with businesses. In the meantime, some AWD quit their current jobs for various reasons: scarcity in work resulting in low income, health problems, getting married and having babies, or going to work abroad.



<i>Area</i>	Formal graduation	Formal employed	Informal graduation	Informal employed	Total employed	% employed	Salary range (up to \$ US)
Hai Duong	100	74	124	108	182 / 224	81	35
Da Nang	47	38	86	83	121/ 133	90	55
Quang Nam	40	33	112	101	133 / 152	87.5	40

Note: More detailed data for each province can be provided on request.

SECTION II. ANALYSIS OF THE QUARTER

- *Why and how intended results were or were not achieved.*
- *Contributions of the activities to the results.*
- *Unintended results.*
- *Lessons learned.*
- *Adjustments in program to improve results.*

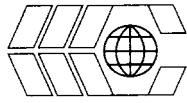
Results achieved and contribution of activities to results

Several worthwhile trainings were held over the quarter:

- The workshop on Awareness Raising on Disabilities Issues for provincial level program management was well attended and encouraged and influenced participants.
- A similar workshop on Awareness Raising on Disabilities Issues was held for Hai Duong District Steering Committee members.

Alternative Basic Education is being trialed in Quang Nam with encouraging results. The ABE classes in Thang Binh and Tien Phuoc have made encouraging progress. These are pilot programs that can be applied to other districts to work with AWD more effectively. The curriculum developed can be used to teach AWD with very low education.

A cooperative training program with VVAF was launched in December. The training of four benchworkers in orthotics at one of Hanoi's leading rehabilitation centers has begun. The candidates for the benchworkers were chosen from the WCDO AWD beneficiaries and the four best have gone on to do two years of technical training. World Concern covers most of the living and associated costs while VVAF covers the training component.



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One sad note about this so far is that one of the chosen four died suddenly the day after he had qualified for the training program. Tu was an enthusiastic and bright candidate who suffered from some form of cancer, which took him suddenly in December. This was the second death in as many months in the WCDO AWD program with one young boy in Quang Nam suffering an epileptic fit in a rice paddy and drowned.

The sign language program develops more as it takes on its own momentum. Five young hearing impaired adults have been trained in an intensive course in the south and are now ready to become mobile sign language trainers in their provinces. This part of the program is really a pioneering effort by WCDO to try and bring communication to AWD, families and deaf groups for the first time. Much of the sign language training will be associated with ABE.

Why intended results were not achieved

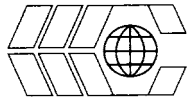
Apart from there still being very little growth in the number of AWD in the program in DaNang, there are plenty of beneficiaries available from Quang Nam. In this regard DaNang will develop slowly but intends to achieve its beneficiary target levels and Quang Nam may take on more without stretching the budget. Quang Nam does have the volunteer network to be able to cope with this extra workload.

On the whole the program is steady in vocational training with some absorption into employment. If anything the program is more multifunctional than originally intended with on-going surgical operations, benchworker programs, the development of self-help groups, and the ever-growing and important sign language component with hearing impaired interventions.

Unintended results

WCDO has decided that its sign language program would benefit from understanding the resources and needs concerning hearing impaired issues in Vietnam. Sign language is a tricky issue as it differs according to region. WCDO has decided to do some research into organizations, resources, innovations and approaches that affect the hearing impaired. Mr. Bob Huff and Mrs. Kathleen Huff, from the WCDO DaNang office, have been commissioned to undertake this research and will present their results to a forum of interested parties in Hanoi sometime in March or April. Out of this forum it is hoped that some practical directions may be found concerning the use of sign language and work toward helping the hearing impaired.

One of the Community Based Social Workers in Hai Duong has decided to leave her position due to her getting married and not being able to continue. Her vacancy has been



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filled by another qualified young man from Hai Duong City since mid-December, so that there will be a half-month handing-over period between the old and the new CBSW.

Lessons learned and adjustments to the program

Adjustments were made to the supportive components of the vocational training and employment side of the program. Thus there are more creative attempts to training and gaining employment such as the benchworker program, cross-site visits by WCDO and other organizations, the sign language program and the development of self-help groups and ABE.

WCDO is constantly having to be flexible and open in its approach to keep focused on the main task of vocational training and employment but also to find the best means, according to particular sites, to adapt AWD to education, rehabilitation, and communication in the best and most cost effective way possible.

ATTACHMENT B
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE



GIÁM ĐỐC TỔ CHỨC PHÁT TRIỂN MỐI QUAN TÂM THẾ GIỚI (WCDO), WARWICK BROWNE :

Chúng tôi đánh giá rất cao nỗ lực của các bạn...



Giám đốc WCDO (trái) tại gian hàng trưng bày nhân ngày Quốc tế người tàn tật tổ chức tại công viên Lê Nin (Hà Nội) tháng 12-2002

Là tổ chức nhân đạo phi Chính phủ với các chương trình hỗ trợ các nước nghèo khu vực châu Á, châu Phi, Mỹ la-tinh, thành lập năm 1955 và tham gia hoạt động ở Việt Nam từ tháng 10 năm 1992 tới nay, WCDO như tên gọi đã thực hiện nhiều dự án hỗ trợ nhân đạo qua các chương trình tín dụng gia đình, dạy nghề và tạo việc làm cho thanh niên khuyết tật có hoàn cảnh đặc biệt khó khăn tại các tỉnh Tuyên Quang, Thái Bình, Hà Tĩnh, Quảng Nam, Đà Nẵng, Quảng Ngãi và Bình Thuận, Hải Dương. Đặc biệt từ 1998, WCDO đã thực thi một số dự án chăm sóc sức khỏe ban đầu, nước sạch và vệ sinh môi trường cho đồng bào dân tộc ít người hai tỉnh Tuyên Quang và Lai Châu. Nhân dịp kết thúc năm hoạt động 2002, chúng tôi có cuộc phỏng vấn ông giám đốc WCDO về thành quả năm qua cũng như một số giải pháp cho hoạt động nhân đạo hiện nay ở Việt Nam:

PV: Theo ông, thành công trong năm 2002 của WCDO là gì?

Ông Warwick Browne: Giúp được nhiều thanh niên khuyết tật học nghề, tìm việc làm phù hợp ổn định là thành công lớn nhất của chúng tôi năm 2002. Hệ thống CTĐ đóng vai trò cầu nối rất quan trọng hiệu quả trong việc tìm ra các nhà doanh nghiệp hảo tâm sẵn lòng tiếp nhận người khuyết tật vào làm. Thành công thứ hai là nâng cao nhận thức của người dân để chính họ tự nguyện tìm cách giúp đỡ thích hợp cho người tàn tật, bất hạnh thông qua các cuộc hội thảo, các nhóm hỗ trợ trực tiếp tại cộng đồng như ở ba tỉnh Quảng Nam, Đà Nẵng, Hải Dương. Tôi muốn nhấn mạnh khía cạnh tìm việc làm, đây là khâu then chốt có thể đổi đời cho các em, là trách nhiệm lương tri chung của cả cộng đồng xã hội.

PV: Như ông cũng biết, hiện ở Việt Nam hệ thống hạ tầng cơ sở cho người khuyết tật chưa có trong các bản thiết kế, các công trình xây dựng. Hạn chế này ngoài yếu tố kinh tế, còn phụ thuộc vào yếu tố nào khác?

Ông Warwick Browne: Nhận thức và giáo dục là khâu đột phá, khâu then chốt cho mọi quyết sách, hành động.

Sự quan tâm của toàn xã hội từ nhận thức đúng đắn là bước quan trọng tiếp theo mở ra những chương trình hành động hữu hiệu. Chúng ta phải tạo ra được đa dạng những loại hình dịch vụ để đáp ứng mọi nhu cầu của đối tượng đặc biệt này. Điều này đòi hỏi phải có được một pháp lệnh hoàn chỉnh về người tàn tật cũng như việc thực thi nó phải hết sức nghiêm túc. Quyết tâm và kinh nghiệm cũng đóng vai trò quan trọng. Qua thực tế, dù hệ thống như nói trên của Việt Nam còn yếu song tôi đánh giá rất cao nỗ lực của các bạn trong chiến lược bù đắp phần nào thiệt thòi người bất hạnh, người tàn tật phải gánh chịu. Xin cảm ơn sự quan tâm, hướng ứng nhiệt tình chương trình dự án của chúng tôi từ phía các bạn.

PV: Một số giải pháp theo ông chúng ta phải làm ngay từ bây giờ để đảm bảo tính phủ kín, toàn diện, hiệu quả trực tiếp trong quá trình cả xã hội cùng đồng tâm hiệp lực giúp đỡ những đối tượng kém may mắn trong xã hội?

Ông Warwick Browne: Phải có giải pháp triệt để, mạnh mẽ huy động sự tham gia tích cực tình nguyện, sức mạnh tổng hợp của cả cộng đồng cũng như nâng cao nhiều hơn nữa nhận thức toàn diện về người tàn tật nói riêng và người bất hạnh nói chung, làm cơ sở cho những sự nhiệt tình, sáng tạo, đóng góp đáng kể vào trách nhiệm chung mang tính nhân văn này. Trên thực tế, chúng tôi mới chỉ có khả năng giúp đỡ những người khuyết tật dạng nhẹ, còn người khuyết tật dạng nặng cần sự chăm sóc đặc biệt thì chúng tôi chưa tiếp cận được, do đó làm sao để mọi đối tượng khuyết tật, mọi đối tượng bất hạnh trong xã hội đều được hưởng bình đẳng những quyền lợi chăm sóc nhất định thực sự là một thử thách, một vấn đề đặt ra với các nhà hoạch định, thực thi chính sách. Như chúng ta đều biết, hiện có nhiều tổ chức nhân đạo nói chung và tổ chức giúp đỡ người khuyết tật nói riêng hoạt động nhưng còn mang nặng tính đơn lẻ, chưa có sự phối hợp chặt chẽ với các tổ chức có cùng chức năng hay tổ chức nhân đạo, quốc tế khác, nên có tình trạng có nơi người khuyết tật được chăm sóc chu đáo nhưng có nơi lại chẳng có tổ chức nào đứng ra đảm trách công việc này, do vậy một sự hiểu biết hợp tác song phương để cùng hướng tới mục đích nhân đạo là rất cần thiết. Một giải pháp quan trọng nữa là phải tạo ra bằng được những nhóm tự cứu ngay tại cộng đồng.

Xin cảm ơn và chúc ông luôn thành công.

PHƯƠNG ĐỒNG
thực hiện